

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The claims have been amended to clarify the invention recited therein. Claims 10, 22, 25 and 26 are cancelled from the application. Claims 1-9, 11-21, 23 and 24 are pending in the application.

The rejections raised in the Office Action are addressed as follows.

Double Patenting rejection

The Examiner rejected the claims of the present application as being unpatentable over claims 1-3 of U.S. Patent No. 6,683,928 on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting. The Examiner further rejected claims 1- 26 as being unpatentable over claim 1 of U.S. Patent No. 6,327,318 on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting. In response, a first Terminal Disclaimer has been submitted to overcome the Examiner's double patenting rejection of the present claims in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,683,928, and a second Terminal Disclaimer has been submitted to overcome the Examiner's double patenting rejection of the present claims in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,327,318.

Claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

The Examiner rejected claims 1-9, 13-21, 25 and 26 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,515,403 (Sloan et al.). It is noted that claim 26 has been cancelled in a prior response. Applicant thanks the Examiner for clarifying that claims 10-12 and 22-24 could be deemed to include allowable subject matter provided that the double patenting rejections are traversed. Terminal Disclaimers for overcoming the double patenting rejection have been submitted, as noted above. Therefore in response, claims 1 and 13 have been amended to include the subject matter of claims 10 and 22 respectively, and claim 25 has been cancelled from the application. Claims 10 and 22 have thus been cancelled from the application, and the remaining claim dependencies have been amended where necessary.

Applicant therefore submits that amended claims 1 and 13 now claim features that are not disclosed or taught in Sloan et al., and withdrawal of the Examiner's anticipation rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) is requested. Accordingly, Applicant believes that claims 1-9, 11-21, 23 and 24 are now in form for allowance.

Additional claim amendments

Applicant has taken the opportunity to make minor amendments to the claims in order to clarify the invention and to correct antecedents for recited terms or expressions. Applicant submits that no new subject matter is being added by the present amendment to the claims.

Should the Examiner wish to discuss the Applicant's claim amendments, he is invited to contact Shin Hung at 613-787-3571.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees, and credit any over payments to Deposit Account No. 501593, in the name of Borden Ladner Gervais LLP.

Respectfully submitted,

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/Shin Hung/

By: _____

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